



Imagine...being a member of an exclusive NASA community of students in the ninth to 12th grade from throughout the U.S. and world who are interested in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, or STEM, education and careers.

Imagine...the community provides the opportunity to interact with your like-minded peers, NASA experts, and education specialists twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week.

Interested? Then the Interdisciplinary National Science Project Incorporating Research and Education Experience, or INSPIRE's Online Learning Community (OLC) is for you!

The OLC provides students the ability to explore and share interests and discover new knowledge through participation in individual and team activities, chats, blogs, discussion boards, design competitions, and challenges. Resources in the OLC helps prepare students for their future as well as information about other NASA and STEM-related opportunities. Parents also have access to resources to help champion their student's education and career goals.

This is what our OLC students say:

- *I applied to connect with like-minded peers and to learn more about science, but I know now just how much the OLC offers: I did not expect to be able to collaborate with INSPIRE students from all over the country on projects and competitions, but I did; I did not know I would be able to listen to lectures from and ask questions of real NASA scientists, but I did; I did not realize the OLC would offer me insight as to possible future careers, but it did. The activities were all very fun and helpful. I always got excited when I realized we were learning in class something I had already learned from INSPIRE material, like gravitation and engine cycles. Now, I get excited whenever I see anything NASA related: I think to myself, "I know about that," or, "I'm part of that."*
- *The INSPIRE OLC has exposed me to a world I didn't know existed, a world that celebrates science and learning. I've attended dozens of online presentations from leaders in the scientific community; I've been exposed to branches of science and disciplines of engineering I didn't even know existed.*

- *The OLC is a community of innovation and excellence. It is a system that provides users a broad service integrated in one place that permit us to discover, connect, showcase and equip with STEM fields. I have been part of it since the 10th grade and it has been one of my best experiences.*
- *I am able to connect with fellow students my age from across the country on the discussion board. Coming from a small school where no one shares my interests I have the opportunity to communicate with people who have similar goals and ideas.*

*To be considered for the INSPIRE Online Learning Community, applicants must:*

- *Be entering the ninth through 12th grade when the school year begins.*
- *Be at least 13 years of age or older at the time of application.*
- Be a U.S. citizen.
- Have a minimum of a 2.5 academic grade point average on an unweighted 4.0 scale.
- Demonstrate the desire and the academic preparation to pursue a STEM-related field of study beyond high school.
- Complete the online application process with all required documentation.
- Expect to actively participate in the Online Learning Community.

To keep you informed via e-mail and receive periodic notices about INSPIRE and application notices, we encourage students and parents to register at the following website:

<https://inspire.okstate.edu/index.cfm?lftoff=login.LoginForm>

For information regarding NASA and Center unique internship programs, please visit us at:

<http://intern.nasa.gov/>